

Message Text

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65

ACTION MCT-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 AID-05 A-01 OPR-02 PC-01

SY-05 SCA-01 SCS-03 DHA-02 EB-07 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USSS-00 COME-00

/088 W

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O R 291630Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7623

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

CONFIDENTIAL 9902

PANAMA FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PINS, CASC, SOCI, CO

SUBJ: KIDNAPPING OF AMERICAN EXECUTIVE, GUSTAVO CURTIS

SITREP-1

1. GUSTAVO CURTIS, AMERICAN MANAGER OF INDUSTRIAS GRAN COLOMBIA, A SUBSIDIARY OF BEATRICE FOODS COMPANY, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, WAS KIDNAPPED BY UNKNOWN PERSONS AT APPROXIMATELY 1900 HOURS, SEPTEMBER 28, ON A STREET IN BOGOTA.

2. ACCORDING TO EYEWITNESS REPORT, CURTIS WAS ON HIS WAY HOME FROM THE COMPANY IN A CHAUFFEUR DRIVER VEHICLE WHEN THE CAR WAS RAMMED FROM BEHIND BY A RENAULT. BOTH THE CHAUFFEUR AND CURTIS GOT OUT OF THE CAR AND WERE CONFRONTED BY THE TWO MEN IN THE RENAULT WHO APPEARED TO BE DRUNK. THE MEN ATTEMPTED TO GET CURTIS TO GO WITH THEM AND SETTLE THE "ACCIDENT" BUT CURTIS INSISTED ON CALLING THE POLICE.

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3. AT THIS POINT ANOTHER CAR DROVE UP WITH TWO ADDITIONAL MEN AND TWO WOMEN. BOTH MEN ALLEGEDLY CARRYING AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FORCED CURTIS INTO ONE CAR AND THE CHAUFFEUR INTO THE OTHER CAR.

4. THE CHAUFFEUR WAS BOUND AND BLINDFOLDED AND AFTER A SHORT DRIVE WAS RELEASED WHEREUPON HE CONTACTED CURTIS' COMPANY AND POLICE.

5. AN OWNER OF A NEARBY REPAIR SHOP, WHO HAD APPARENTLY WORKED ON CURTIS' CAR AND KNEW CURTIS BY SIGHT WITNESSED THE KIDNAPPING AND NOTIFIED THE POLICE WHO ARRIVED ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES AFTER CURTIS WAS ABDUCTED FROM THE SCENE.

6. A COMPANY SOURCE ADVISED THAT THE CHAUFFEUR WAS ABLE TO IDENTIFY ONE OF THE KIDNAPPERS FROM A POLICE PHOTO. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THE MAN IDENTIFIED IS A FORMER ESCAPEE FROM A MEXICAN PRISON.

7. COMPANY OFFICIALS NOTIFIED CURTIS' SUPERVISOR IN MIAMI, MR. ANDRE JOB, AC305-666-7843, WHO WILL CONTACT HOME OFFICE, BEATRICE FOODS IN CHICAGO.

8. NO INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON WHO KIDNAPPERS INVOLVED ARE AND TO DATE, NO CONTACT HAS BEEN MADE WITH CURTIS' WIFE OR INDUSTRIAS GRAN COLOMBIA OFFICIALS.

9. POLICE SOURCES IN BOGOTA HAVE GIVEN STORY OF KIDNAPPING TO THE PRESS AND EL SIGLO AND EL TIEMPO CARRIED SHORT ARTICLES IN MORNING SEPTEMBER 29 EDITIONS.

10. PERIODIC SITUATION REPORTS WILL BE SENT AS WE OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

SANCHEZ

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